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From the Office of the Director of Health

2006 Annual Report Highlights Community Indicators

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department releases its 2006 annual report, combining community and environmental health indicators with profiles on 10 highly recognized programs.

The report shows fairly consistent numbers in most measured categories with a slight increase since 2005 in infant deaths and child fatalities and in WIC participants. It also reveals an increase in lung cancer, breast cancer, suicides, gonorrhea and HIV cases.

“The increase in sexually transmitted diseases in our community is a reflection of a nationwide trend,” says director Kevin Gipson. “Our communicable disease division is working diligently to raise awareness and encourage prevention and testing, in order to slow the spread of STDs.”

The 2006 annual report also quantifies a number of services provided by health department staff during the year. Staff provided more than 20,000 vaccinations, tested nearly 17,000 public water samples and investigated almost 9,000 trash and refuse complaints.

“Much of public health work is accomplished without fanfare every day,” adds Gipson. “But it is important to our community. We know that we make a difference, and our staff work diligently to stay focused on our challenge to protect public health.”

The 2006 Annual Report can be viewed on the health department's Web site at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>. Hard copies may be requested by calling Karen McKinnis at (417) 864-1623.

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